

ANDRIY CHERNEVYCH

**I AM THE PARTY** Bionic played the spankin' new Pawn Shop on Monday night.

# Galaxy 1-ups with classic gaming

Mario's latest adventure brings back memories of videogaming's golden years

## gamereview

### Super Mario Galaxy

Available Now

Developed by Nintendo

RYAN HEISE

Deputy News Editor

Like so many 20-somethings today, much of my childhood was categorized by playing video games with my older brother during snowed-in winter days or lazy summer afternoons. Passing *Mega-Man 2* for the first time, finishing our first season in *NHL '94*, and agonizing over those damn spiked-wall flying levels in *Battletoads* still stick with me to today.

But perhaps most vivid is watching my brother pass *Super Mario Bros 3* for the first time. Why this particular memory sticks out, I'm not sure; perhaps it was my six-year-old self sitting in awe, thinking that such a feat couldn't be accomplished.

These were, undoubtedly, the hey-days of video games: simple, romantic, and filled with hours of pure glee. Not to say that games today are bad, but their complexity has driven so many people away, and the fun has often been replaced by frustrating controls and overly difficult puzzles.

When the Nintendo Wii was released last year, the company promised a throwback to this era. While many games have tried, most ultimately ended up feeling like dumbed-down versions of bigger games.

Enter *Super Mario Galaxy*, the iconic Nintendo mascot's debut on the year-old system.



The story here's pretty simple: Bowser has stolen Princess Peach and her castle and launched to the centre of the universe. During this skirmish, Mario, our intrepid Italian plumber, gets flung into space as well, only to end up at a floating observatory. From here, you must search the universe, discover new galaxies to explore, and collect stars that let you see further into space. This isn't award-winning material here, but it is a Mario game, so all should be forgiven.

Each galaxy is its own level, with a unique setting and set of goals to accomplish. Unlike previous 3-D Mario games, the levels here are much smaller and linear, resulting in more varied level design and some very unique and distinct challenges.

Perhaps the most noteworthy aspect of *Galaxy* is that the majority of the game takes place in outer space, with Mario hopping between celestial bodies, hoping his destination's gravity can overcome that of his departure point. The results of this are amazing to watch, as Mario cartwheels between objects, is shot to distant areas, and runs the whole way around spherical platforms.

As great as all of this is, the real magic

of the game comes from how simple it is for the player. Controls are straightforward, with the nunchuk handling Mario's movements and the Wii remote used for jumping and attacking. Pointing the remote lets Mario collect and shoot star bits, the game's currency.

Even though Nintendo was able to take away the intimidation factor from the player's side of things, the challenges, level design, and out-of-this-world physics make the game feel huge and complex. Most importantly, it makes the game legitimately feel fun.

While the levels start out fairly simple, they still leave you in awe as Mario battles a three-legged robot that dwarfs the tiny plant you both stand on. Once the difficulty of the challenges picks up—about halfway through the game—rarely do they feel frustrating. Instead, the harder parts always seem to leave you with a glimmer of hope and make you jump right back in.

With an amazing musical score that re-imagines many classic Mario themes, *Super Mario Galaxy* is truly a trip back to a simpler time of gaming with enough new shine and polish to rekindle the glee and amazement of the eight-bit generation.

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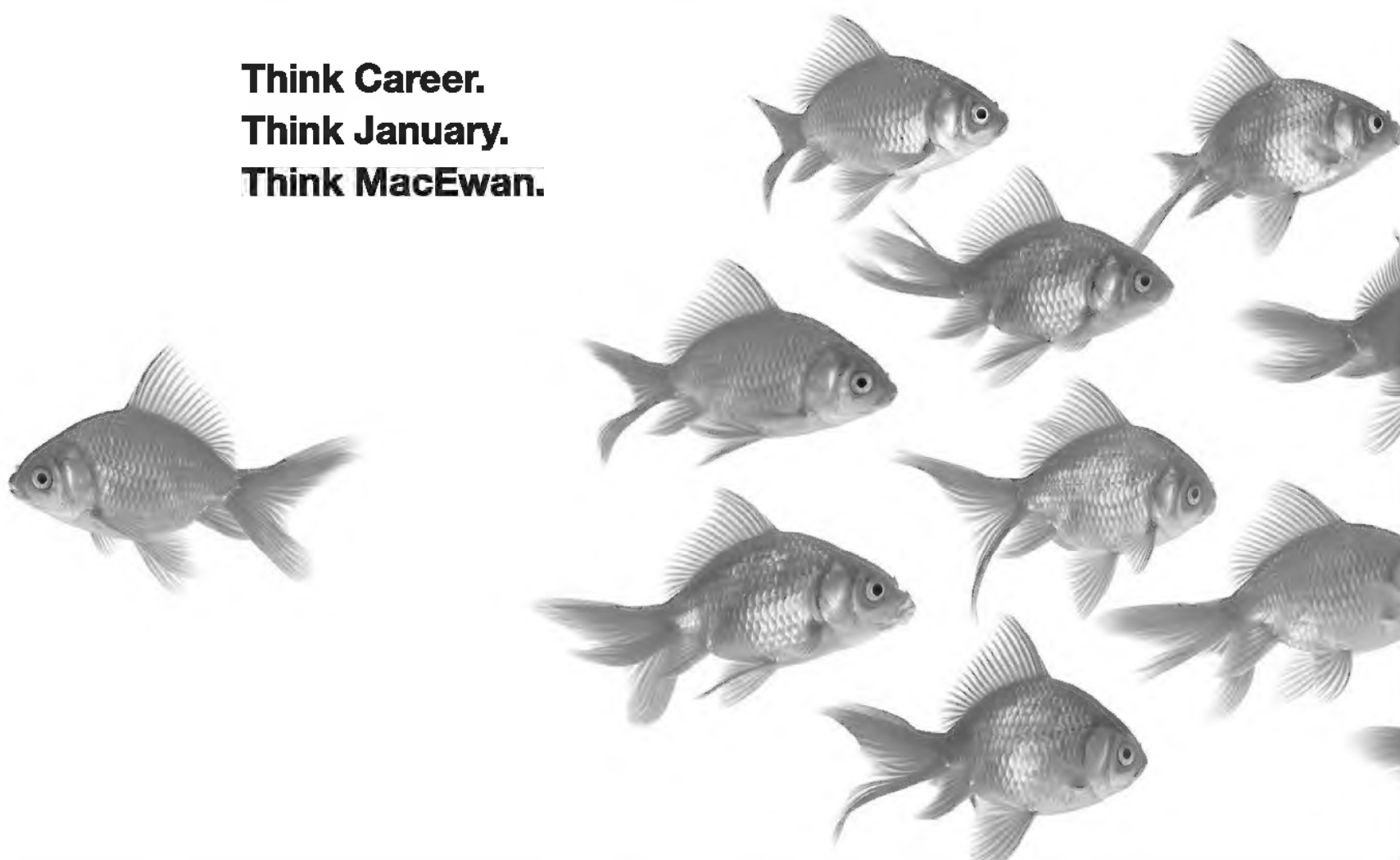
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ATMITH



# Ripper's just hunting for your ears

## musicpreview

**Eugene Ripper**  
With Michael Rault  
Saturday, 24 November at 7pm  
Axis Café (10349 Jasper Avenue)

SARAH STEAD  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

You may not know him by name, but Eugene Ripper is no stranger to the music business. He's been making and performing music since the early '80s—but he wasn't always playing folk.

Ripper's first band was Stark Naked and the Fleshtones, a cheeky punk act that he joined when he was just 16. The transition from punk rocker to folk artist may seem strange, but Ripper insists that even with an acoustic guitar in hand, he remains true to his punk roots.

"I was just playing guitar in my punk band, so [going solo] was a way for me to start to expand as a songwriter," he explains. "I kept the edge I cut my teeth on with my punk roots and expanded it with the introduction of the acoustic guitar and a wider killing field of lyrical topics."

The number of genres and styles Ripper blends together he credits to a wide variety of musical influences. Genres are irrelevant; if something catches Ripper's ear, he'll sit down and give it a listen.

"[Inspiration] can be anything," he says. "From flipping through the dial on the car radio, to sitting down with a Jamaican music collection, to downloading Radiohead's latest, to Woody Guthrie [...], Arcade Fire, or just being down in the local pub and hearing a great Rockabilly guitarist. I'm looking for [inspiration] wherever I go."

Ripper's certainly spent more than his share of time globetrotting, spending time living in Vancouver, Halifax, and New York. Of those temporary



homes, it was the Big Apple which inspired his most recent release, *Fast Folk Underground 2.0*.

"There's a lot of New York City in *Fast Folk*, and I think that New York, probably more than any place that I've lived, has left the largest footprint in terms of attitude in the music," Ripper says. "Having spent a couple years being creative in [New York], feeling the energy of that city, the pulse, and the edge [...] it's hard to wash that off your hands."

While only four tracks long, Ripper feels particularly proud of *Fast Folk*—so proud that he's giving it away for free to try and attract a larger audience.

"One of the biggest challenges for artists these days to get people's attention," he says. "So the album is

out there on my website for free, and I wholeheartedly encourage people to rip it, share it, set it free, and enjoy it—with no strings attached."

Really, all Ripper wants is to be heard. The cheeky punk days of his youth may be over, but he still finds excitement in touring—especially when someone knows his work. After more than two decades in the music business, he deserves it, too.

"[There's a] thrill of [people] in different cities welcoming my music into their life, and their ears," Ripper says. "It's not the big, crazy events that you remember; it's somebody calling out for a song that they've heard on another album, relating on a direct level, and making connections."



## albumreview

**Alter Bridge**  
*Blackbird*  
Universal Republic

DAVID JOHNSTON  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

In 1923, American poet Wallace Stevens published a charming little poem entitled "Thirteen Ways Of Looking At A Blackbird." It's a philosophical and imagistic poem that bounces around a series of 13 distinct images. I'm discussing this here for two reasons: Alter Bridge's latest disc is entitled *Blackbird* and has 13 tracks, and I thought it was a funny coincidence; and every word I spend chatting about Stevens, I don't have to waste on actually talking about this album.

In case you're late to the scene, Alter Bridge is composed of those nice boys from Creed, except they dropped vocalist Scott Stapp and went looking for someone else, the criteria apparently being that he must sound exactly like Stapp did.

This is presumably to let them grow artistically. If it helps, I did enjoy the song on *Blackbird*, though I was confused as to why they played it nine times in a row. And then I realized that it's just that all the songs on *Blackbird* sound exactly alike. At first, I thought I was just mistaken;

surely this can't be. There are little lyrical and tempo differences here and there, and—oh, there's that screaming electric guitar solo, again. And there's that tricky drum rhythm. Again. And there's those growling, meaningless lyrics. Again. Alter Bridge takes ten tracks before they produce a different song, and by then, it's too late to save *Blackbird* from flying straight into the plate-glass window.

Overall, listening to *Blackbird* is like listening to *Guitar Hero* on Expert Mode. The songs are all really long and generic, and contain complex head-banging guitar solos that impress you for awhile but start to run together in a background noise kind of way. *Blackbird* is no "Freebird," sirs. You'd do well to remember that next time.

If I had to make a choice, I pick "Thirteen Ways of Looking At A Blackbird" over this album. At least Stevens' blackbirds don't all look identical.



## albumreview

**Selasee**  
*Run*  
Running Dream Records

VANESSA HORNE  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

For those that aren't planning a trip to Ghana in the near future, Selasee's first album, *Run*, is a good fill-in: as soon as the title track starts, you feel like you've been transported at least three countries south. Selasee fills *Run* with African instruments and lyrics, and mixes

American pop, reggae, and West African hi-life genres. The feel of the album is so warm and catchy that you can't help but bob to it.

The expertise of Selasee's songcraft is quite captivating, and it's getting him some acclaim, too: "Run," the

album's single, was chosen to be on the soundtrack of soccer game *FIFA 2006*. The lyrics are fairly simple, but in a good way—after only a couple of listens, you may find yourself singing along.

*Run*'s small number of problems stem from the fact that the last few songs start to feel like elevator music due to the slow, repetitive tempo, and extended instrument solos.

*Run* is a decent first album, and Selasee expertly conveys his easy-going but passionate personality through his music. If you like reggae or world music, Selasee's musical excellence makes Ghana a feel little bit closer.

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## PROFESSOR OF THE WEEK




### BEHROOZ NOWROUZIAN

MARKETING 301

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Though you may not know it, David Bowie is not actually a cat. I know this because he's never puked on my carpet or woken me up with his incessant meowing.

Here at the *Gateway*, our carpets are 100-per-cent vomit-free, so drop by our **4pm Thursday meetings in 3-04 SUB** (unless you're a cat, cats are banned).



## GATEWAY OPINION

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# Bears ready for physical rematch with UBC

The last time they met, the Bears hockey team underestimated the Thunderbirds and were swept—but this time, Alberta's ready

PAUL OWEN  
Managing Editor

When the Golden Bears hockey squad was swept by the UBC Thunderbirds in early October, they were missing one key ingredient: respect. As Alberta (9-2-1) prepares to host the T-birds (7-5-0) this weekend, the team hopes to change that.

"The guys have shown that they want to show UBC that we're going to be a team that you're going to have to battle against; we're not just going to go out and go through the motions," Bears head coach Eric Thurston said.

"Respect is a big thing, and I don't think we respected them as much as we should have. I think it was really good for us in the sense that we understood that we have to show up every night and work hard to be successful. It was a good wake-up call and a good lesson."

Thurston noted that his team's effort was lacking earlier in the season in Vancouver, and UBC was able to take advantage of that. Accordingly, the Bears can ill afford to take the Thunderbirds too lightly, as their opponents bring with them an aggressive style of play, counter to Alberta's preference.

"It's going to be a very physical weekend; they play a very tough brand of hockey. They come out very physical; we're not a physical team," Thurston admitted. "We're a speed-built team; we have good puck-possession skills, but our guys can be physical. We just have to make sure that we come out and we're not curling away from our checks—you don't have to put a guy in the fifth row, but we need to make sure we finish our checks."



FILE PHOTO: TARA STIEGLITZ

**CENTRE OF ATTENTION** The Bears will have their work cut out for them when they face UBC this weekend, a team that's beaten them twice already this season.

Alberta will rely on their speed and puck-handling ability to counter UBC's physicality. Controlling the puck deep in the Thunderbird zone will be Alberta's goal.

"We have to make sure our forwards are skating, and when we attack their blueline, we can't [be, as] I call it, 'getting into the tracks,' where forwards stop skating and just start to

coast," Thurston explained. "We have to make sure we drive their defence with speed and make sure we work the puck low on them, but don't make blind passes or passes you're sort of forcing to guys in the slot."

Alberta is coming off a pair of wins over the conference-leading Saskatchewan Huskies two weeks ago, and had a bye week this past weekend.

The time off gave the Bears a chance to rest and get healthy—most notably first-year defenceman Jason Fransoo, who Thurston expects to have back in the lineup Friday after Fransoo missed the past four games.

"It came at a good time—coming off two emotional wins against Saskatchewan—and gave us a chance to recharge our batteries for a little

bit," Thurston said.

With only four games left before the Christmas break, Thurston noted that his team is in a critical stretch of their schedule that will serve to set them up for a strong second half.

"I looked at these last six games—Saskatchewan, UBC, and Calgary—as a measuring stick and a real good test for our team to see where we are."

## Green Huskies volleyball team set to face experienced Golden Bears

ROBIN COLLUM  
Sports Editor

When the Saskatchewan Huskies walk into the Main Gym this weekend for their games against the Bears volleyball team, they'll know they have their work cut out for them. The Huskies (1-7) are at the bottom of the Canada West standings, while Alberta (5-1) is ranked number one in CIS and is coming back rested from a bye weekend.

"I'm expecting them to be very good—the way the number-one ranked team in the country should be," Saskatchewan head coach Brian Galvas said.

Unlike the Bears, who have six fourth- or fifth-year players and only two rookies, Saskatchewan's roster is packed with new players. There are eight brand-new Huskies on the 14-man roster, and only one athlete—fourth-year right side Brian Yuzdowski—with more than three seasons' experience. Galvas considers this to be his team's greatest problem on the court—especially given that Canada West is generally considered the toughest conference in the country.

"We're inexperienced right now,

and an inability to execute at this level is the biggest weakness," Galvas said. "We do have some size with our youth, so with patience and development, hopefully they're going to be able to get to the level that's required

**"We have an opponent that's young, but they're a well-coached team, so we can't ever take them for granted."**

**TERRY DANYLUK**  
BEARS HEAD COACH

to compete at the Canada West level.

"We're young and inexperienced, and we hope to improve throughout the year to try to put ourselves in a position to try to compete for a playoff position."

The Bears will be doing their best to get in the Huskies' way this weekend at home. The team is coming off a bye week after suffering their first loss of the season against Winnipeg in a rematch of last year's national final, which the Bears also lost. Alberta head coach Terry Danyluk said that they

spent the break resting and tightening up their game.

"We've been doing some new things in practice to try to stabilize some of our defences, and we've introduced a few different things offensively," he said. "We're going to see how they work this weekend, so I'm excited about that."

"We needed to have a chance to change some things and to try to improve in some areas. We've had two weeks to do that, so this weekend we'll see whether or not those things happen. I'm hoping to see some of the things we've been working on transfer into game play."

Though the temptation might have been there to take the weekend's results for granted, the Bears will be taking the Huskies seriously.

"We have an opponent that's young, but they're a well-coached team, so we can't ever take them for granted," Danyluk said. "It has nothing to do with who we're playing."

Danyluk attributes the depth of the Alberta bench with their strong season so far.

"Almost everybody on our team has played now at least at some point, so I think that our depth is pretty good," he said.

Games are at 8pm on Friday and



FILE PHOTO: LAUREN STIEGLITZ

**WAIT FOR IT ... WAIT FOR IT** Joel Schmuland (hitting) and his fellow Bears are expected to dominate the Huskies, but they aren't making any assumptions.



# Pandas head to net with U of S

BEN CARTER  
Sports Staff

It was inevitable that the powerhouse Pandas volleyball team would eventually lose a game, and now that it's happened, the team is intent on regrouping. After experiencing their first taste of adversity last weekend, the Pandas (5-1) hope to come out with a pair of wins from their matches at home this weekend against the Saskatchewan Huskies (3-5).

Head coach Laurie Eisler saw the loss, which came from a road series against Trinity Western, more as an issue of execution and other technical matters.

"It wasn't so much what went wrong, but that we didn't play technically smart enough to limit their strengths," she said. "And they're a very good team. You have to give them credit; they played really well."

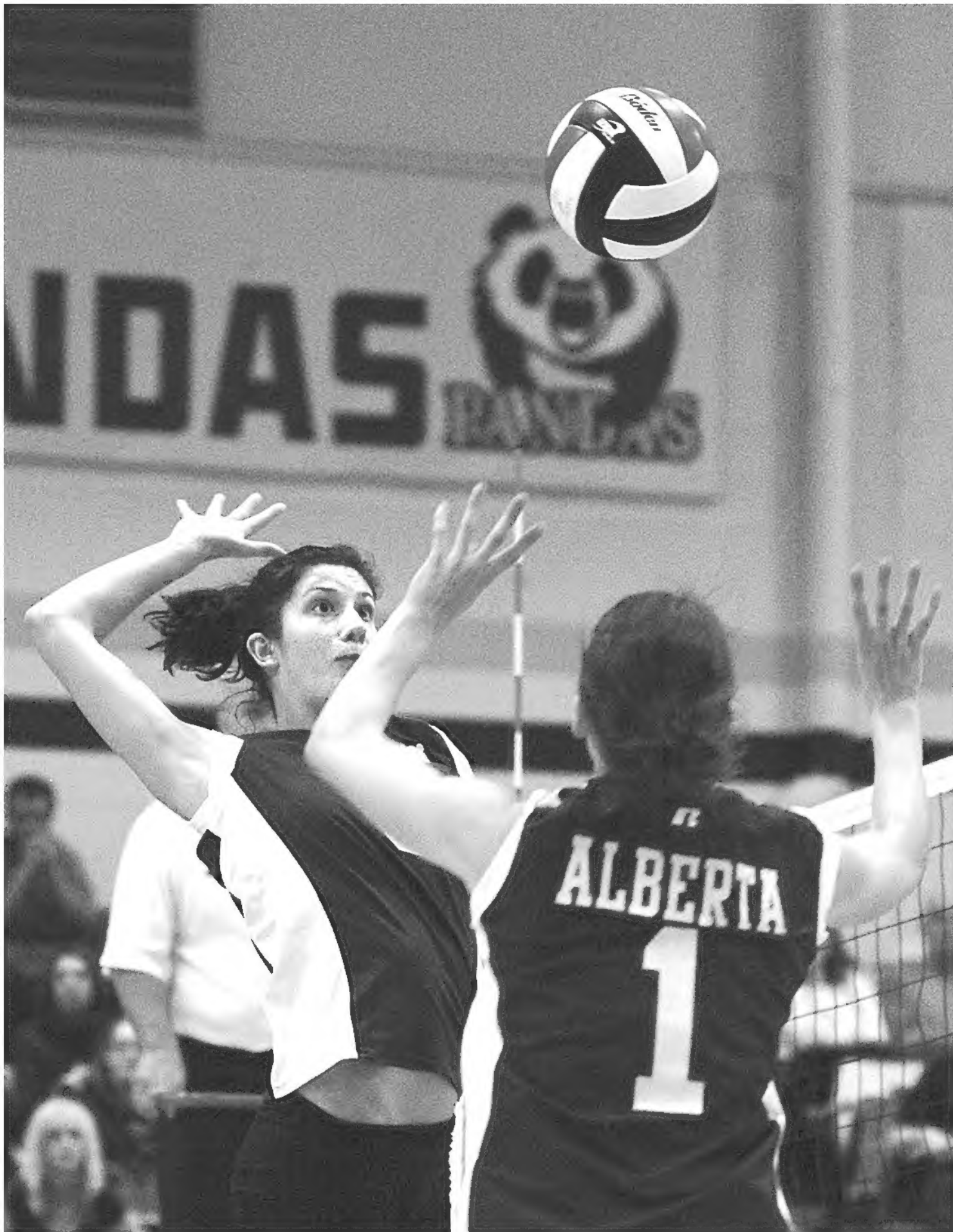
Despite the loss, Eisler feels the team played well enough to see the positives and negatives from the weekend.

"I think our defence let us down a bit; we were a little bit uncomfortable defensively, and we carried a bit of tension around. It came down to a couple of points in the first two sets—you win one of those, then the match goes longer, and I think we win it."

Like their head coach, Pandas players aren't dwelling on the loss but working on the aspects of their game that let them down in BC.

"We've been stressing variation in our play," fourth-year outside Jocelyn Blair said. "We've been trying new things offensively, and we're working on the fundamentals of defence. Those were the things that broke down for us."

Despite their losing record, the Huskies are an aggressive team and



FILE PHOTO: LAUREN STIEGLITZ

**PADDYCAKE** With only one loss, the Pandas are confident against the U of S.

are currently ranked just out of the national top 10.

"They're scrappy," Eisler said. "They've got a significant offensive player they rely on in Shannon Usher. They're nothing fancy; they just hit hard on the block and keep you honest."

Blair isn't taking the visitors lightly either. Whatever they see from the Huskies, Blair wants to see a more technically sound performance out

of her team.

"I really just want to see us executing the game plan," she said. "We weren't able to do that in Trinity Western because our fundamentals broke down, and I want to see us taking care of those aspects of the game so the rest of the game will be easier."

The Pandas play at 6:30pm on Friday in the Main Gym and at 8pm the following night.

## Cash-for-medals idea not a winner

Canadian Olympic Committee should put money into development instead



ROBIN  
COLLUM

Sports  
Commentary

Imagine you're an Olympic champion—the very best in the world in your chosen sport. After four years of pushing your body to the limit, dealing with nagging injuries, and training for hours every day, you've won the biggest competition on earth. Standing on the podium with a gold medal around your neck as your national anthem plays in the background, what thought is going through your head? My guess is that it's not, "Now if only I had a big fat check to make this experience worthwhile."

But that seems to be what the Canadian Olympic Committee expects. On Monday, they announced that starting at the 2008 Beijing Games, Canadian athletes who make it to the podium will be given a large cash bonus. Bronze medallists will be given \$10 000, silver medallists \$15 000, and those who make it the very top of the podium will earn a whopping \$20 000 per medal, with the money will coming out of something called the "Athlete Excellence Fund."

Though I would normally support anything that recognizes and compensates Canada's amateur athletes for their incredibly hard work and dedication, this is a terrible plan. Giving out lump sums as a reward for one

particular standard of success—at the precise time when it's least needed—is a waste of already scarce resources. The COC is sending the message that they're not really dedicated to supporting high-calibre amateur athletes—just the ones who make the evening news.

Amateur athletes in Canada already receive scant limited funding. In addition to the rigours of training, many work part-time jobs—and take out loans from banks and family members—to get by. Not everyone agrees on how much aid full-time athletes should receive, but it's the COC's job to support them, and in this case, they're going about it all wrong.

**Handing money to an athlete after they've achieved success won't make them—or their peers—any better.**

Some athletes have already spoken up in praise of the new program, including two-time gold medallist Adam van Koeverden, who won in the sprint kayak in Athens, and rower Silken Laumann, who has won two bronze medals and one silver. They argue that medal bonuses will serve as a welcome gesture of appreciation and recognition of their hard work. Laumann was most vocal in her approval, saying it was a sign that the federal government is willing to give athletes "more than a handshake."

But athletes wouldn't be so desperate

for recognition if they were properly supported in the first place. The main problem with the Athlete Excellence Fund program is that it's putting the money in the wrong place. Handing money to an athlete after they've achieved success won't make them—or their peers—any better. They certainly aren't in sports for the money, so creating the Fund as an incentive is useless. Anyone who is willing to go through the effort and hardship it takes to make it to the Olympics already wants that gold medal more than almost anything in the world; putting a dollar sign on its value won't change anything. What it does is take money away from supporting developing athletes, the ones who need it the most.

When Lori-Ann Muenzer went to the 2004 Olympics, she couldn't afford to send her coach with her. He watched her win cycling gold on a TV screen here in Edmonton. Though I'm sure she would've appreciated the \$20 000 for her medal had it been available at the time, her coach would still have been in Edmonton. What would actually have helped her is if the COC had helped her out financially in the months and years before she went to Athens.

The COC would do well to remember that gold medals are won in training, not in competition. If they're serious about their medal goal for Beijing, Vancouver, and future Games, they need to put their money back into development programs, not publicity grabs like the Athlete Excellence Fund.

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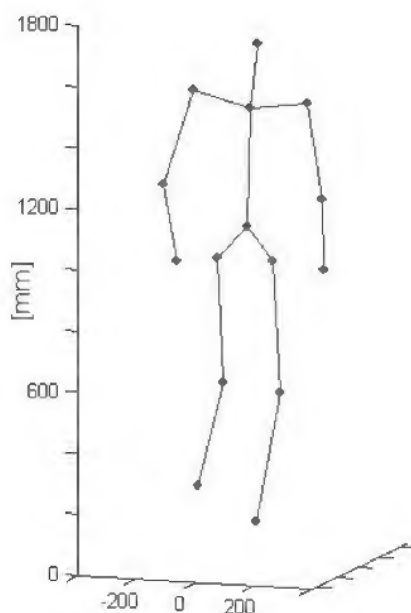
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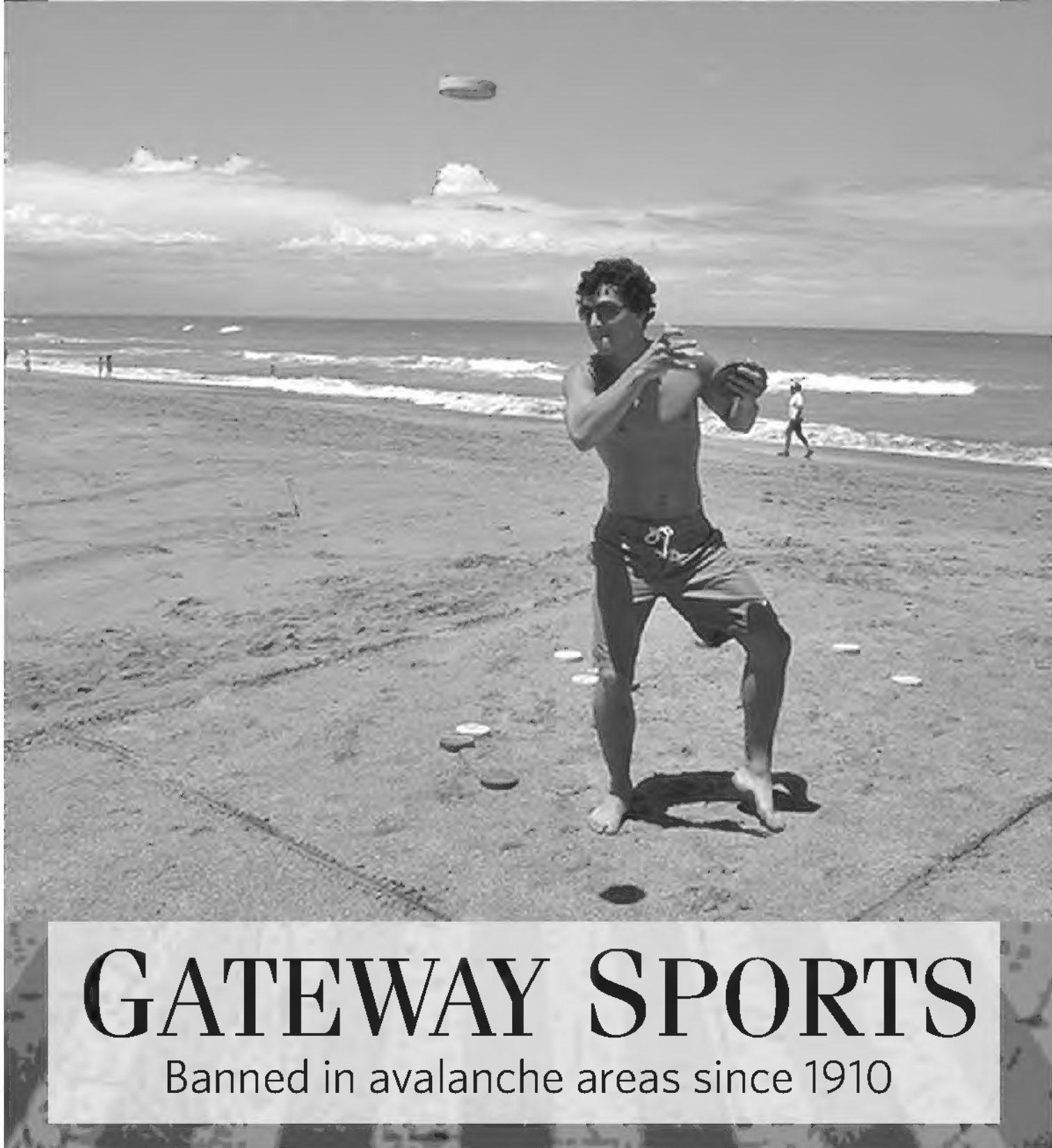
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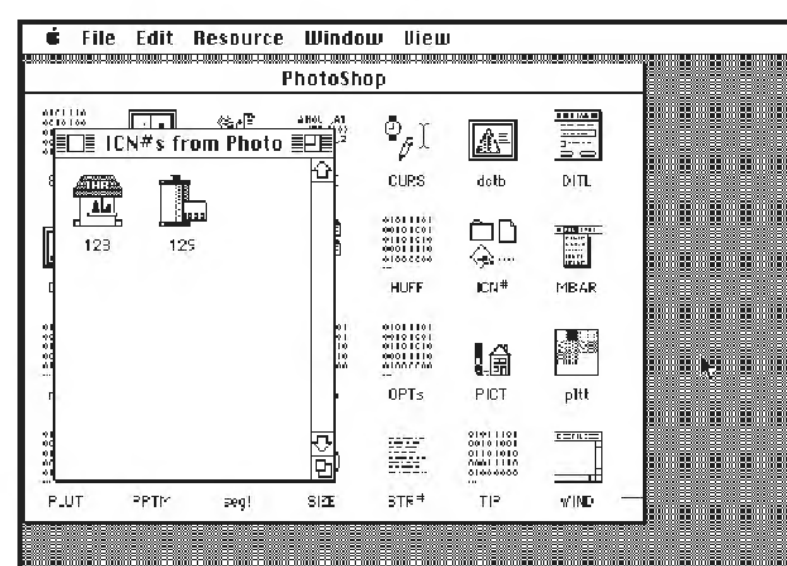
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KELSEY TANASIUK

# Gender equality still a work in progress in CIS coaching

MYLES GOUGH  
*The Charlatan (Carleton)*

OTTAWA (CUP)—Despite a general consensus that women are invaluable to the sporting community as role models for athletes, they continue to occupy only a small fraction of head coach positions within CIS.

Sheilagh Croxon, an Olympic medal-winning coach and consultant for the Coaching Association of Canada, believes the disparity between male and female coaches in CIS is a problem, and universities must make a more concerted effort to hire female coaches.

In 2005, a CIS study found that men occupy 80 per cent of all coaching positions at Canadian universities. In addition to dominating male athletics, men also held about 70 per cent of the head coaching jobs for female teams. By comparison, women constituted less than five per cent of coaches for male teams.

Field hockey, a sport played exclusively by women at the CIS level, was the only sport where women outnumbered their male counterparts in head coaching positions.

With little change during the past two years, these figures are still relevant to universities today. Croxon said many barriers exist that discourage women from coaching at top-tier levels—including unequal funding for women's sports and lower salaries for female coaches.

She said equalizing salaries and creating policies around coaching that are more conducive to women and their lifestyles can help alleviate this problem. Croxon said sport is about more than just winning, and believes female coaches should be sought out for their diverse skills.

**“Female athletes need women coaches as role models, and they also need leaders who place more emphasis on relationships.”**

**SHEILAGH CROXON**  
CONSULTANT  
COACHING ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

“You need to focus on developing human beings,” she said. “Female athletes need women coaches as role models, and they also need leaders who place more emphasis on relationships.”

Jennifer Brenning, director of athletics at Carleton University, agreed that there is a problem, but said schools have taken steps toward increasing pay equity. She said coaches at Carleton are all under middle management contracts, and any variation in salary is due to experience level.

Despite these progressive measures, Carleton still has trouble attracting female coaches. Carleton currently

employs 13 male head coaches at the varsity level, compared to only two women. While trying to find a head coach for the women's basketball program this off-season, Brenning said the university was in serious discussions with a female for the position. The candidate, whom Brenning could not name for privacy reasons, later decided to withdraw from the discussions.

“For a women's program, the ideal candidate would be female, but when the pool of female applicants is so small, this is hard to do,” Brenning said.

The university eventually hired Taffe Charles—a former assistant with the men's program—as the new head coach.

Kelly Lyons, a member of the Carleton women's basketball team, said she has no preference about the sex of her coach. She said her male coaches have tended to be a bit more authoritative, but her female coaches have placed just as much emphasis on winning.

“I think women coaches obviously understand the female players, but there are some men who come from very female-oriented families,” she said. “It all depends on the person.”

Lorne Adams, president of Ontario University Athletics, said the decision to hire male coaches for female sports is often based on a lack of availability, and female athletes would rather compete under a male coach than not compete at all.

## U OF A GENDER PARITY

The U of A currently employs four female head coaches—Liz Jepsen of Pandas soccer, Laurie Eisler of Pandas volleyball, field hockey's Carla Duncan, and Georgette Reed, who's head coach of both the cross-country and track and field teams. Thirteen of the U of A's 25 varsity teams are female, and women hold a number of key administrative positions in the Athletics department.

University Athletics Director Dale Schulha says that though the U of A doesn't have a policy on it, they do have an unofficial philosophy that stresses gender equity.

“We certainly want to move to as much gender equity as we can in our programs, in terms of providing opportunities to student-athletes as well as coaches and administrators,” he said.

“But when we hire a coach, for example, we want to hire the most qualified individual, and gender is taken into account, but the vast majority of female coaches and women in our department don't want to see women hired just because they're women; they want to be able to stand on their own right, and they can.”

In Schulha's opinion, the lack of gender parity in the coaching profession has a historical basis.

“Over history, there were much more opportunities for male coaches than for female coaches. I think that's changing in a very positive direction,” he said. “Women are getting much better opportunities for entering the coaching profession. Across the county, we've got some outstanding role models.”

He cited Eisler, Reed, former Pandas

basketball head coach Trix Baker, and Melody Davidson as examples. Davidson, a former U of A faculty member, coached the Canadian women's national hockey team from 2004 until this summer—including for their gold-medal turn at the 2006 Olympics—and is now the team's general manager.

Schulha also said that sporting organizations at the provincial and national levels are starting to provide more chances to women, a move he said was important.

“Young girls now can look up to those role models and see that there are opportunities for women in those professions,” he said.

In addition, the U of A has a large number of female assistant coaches, especially on female teams.

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THE RESTLESS WICKED by Marie Gojmerac



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**astronowatch**  
by Kati Kovacs

Happy American Thanksgiving! Celebrate America's biggest travel holiday of the year by doing some amateur astronomy! Since it's supposed to be clear skies for the next couple of days, you have absolutely no excuse.

Tonight if we're lucky, you might even be able to catch some *aurora borealis*, northern lights to you 'lay people.' The sun has been flinging all sorts of interesting (and ionized!) particles at us, so we here in the northern latitudes might get lucky and see some purdy lights in the sky.

If purdy lights aren't your thing, then take a gander at the moon on

Saturday night. It's full! Many cultures around the world see different things in the pattern of craters and basins on the surface of the moon. In North America, we see a 'man on the moon', in China they see a bunny, and in some Native American cultures, they see a man praying. What do you see in the moon?

Keep an eye out for Mars this weekend as well. Look east-northeast at around 9pm, and that bright orange 'star' you see is the best and chocolatiest planet in the solar system, Mars!

*AstronoWatch is a weekly feature that covers the goings-on in the night skies, the galaxy, and sometimes even Kati's personal life.*

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# THE GATEWAY

volume XCVIII number 21 ♦ the official student newspaper at the university of alberta ♦ www.thegatewayonline.ca ♦ thursday, 22 november, 2007



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: MIKE OTTO

**THERE'S GOLD IN THEM THAR BEERS** Read our resident drunkards' advice on how to booze it up on the cheap (page 8).

## Crossover colleges meeting demands

RAMIN OSTAD  
News Staff

Colleges in many parts of Canada are offering more four-year degrees in order to satisfy the steadily increasing student demand that universities are unable to meet.

"I think there's not enough seats at the universities; there hasn't been for a very long time," explained Dr Carl Amrhein, University of Alberta Provost and Vice-President (Academic). "[Alberta has] one of the smallest, lowest ratios of university seats to high-school graduating classes, so there are simply not enough spaces in the universities."

The University of Calgary turned away a little over 5000 qualified applicants in the fall of 2006 after having already reached student capacity. An alternate choice for these students would have been to attend other institutions such as Mount Royal College and Grant MacEwan College in order to fulfill their postsecondary aspirations. However, according to MacEwan Provost Janet Paterson-Weir, availability isn't the only reason students are choosing colleges over universities.

"The research we've been doing indicates that students come here for many different reasons. One would be that they can't get the degree anywhere but here, such as our Child and Youth Care degree. Another reason is they might come here because it's a small

environment where the professors are assigned to teach directly in each class."

This sentiment is shared by students like Carlie Pochynok, a journalism student at Grant MacEwan College. She chose to go there not only because it's the only institution in Edmonton with a journalism program but also because the environment suited her.

"I've gone to both U of A and Grant MacEwan, and at Grant MacEwan, the class sizes are the main difference that people notice," Pochynok explained. "You can walk into a lecture hall here with 50 students, and 300 at U of A. For a first-year student, that can be intimidating. Most of the professors here also know you by name, and there's easier access to them and to other students."

While the demand may be growing at colleges, they were only given the freedom to offer degrees very recently. In 2003, the Alberta government created the *Post-secondary Learning Act*, which allowed for the possibility of baccalaureate degrees to be offered in the college system, as well as creating the Campus Alberta Quality Council, a peer-review committee that oversees the creation and quality of all degrees offered by postsecondary institutions in Alberta. This ensures that, at least within Canada, degrees attained from postsecondary institutions in Alberta will be considered equal by potential employers.

PLEASE SEE **COLLEGES** ♦ PAGE 3

## Increasing number of young Canadians seeing red—study

NATALIE CLIMENHAGA  
Senior News Editor

An increasing number of young Canadians are facing perilous debt loads, according to a recent study co-sponsored by Credit Canada and credit-card provider Capital One Canada.

With 55 per cent of the survey's 4487 respondents admitting to living beyond their means at least one month per year, Laurie Campbell, from non-profit counselling service Credit Canada, explained that the notion of saving for a rainy day is no longer the norm.

"We're living in a society now that says if you want something new, don't pay a cent until 2010; get it now, and we'll deal with it later," she said.

Campbell also highlighted the growing availability of student loans and credit for contributing to making debt "more acceptable" in today's society.

"The survey pointed to the fact that 92 per cent of Canadians feel that their debt situation is worse today than it was five years ago; well, how is it that they are going to be able to teach their children about proper money management if they've got poor money management skills themselves?" Campbell asked.

However, the results come as little surprise to

Alemayehu Aklilu. The fourth-year geophysics undergraduate will face \$24 000 in student loans when he graduates, and while he's confident of his ability to pay back his loan, he admits that his debt constantly weighs on his choices.

"It's always on my mind. I worry about it; I always think of how long it will take me to pay it off, how much I need to put into it after I graduate," he said.

Aklilu said he's worked during the summer to minimize his student loans, but added that tuition levels were a major contributor to the amount of debt he's racked up.

"Instead of going to the University, initially I went to Grant MacEwan, and the cost of tuition was half the price of the U of A. So it was a little bit more manageable to think about getting a student loan for tuition that was only \$2500 instead of \$5000," he said.

However, Tracy Watson, communications manager for Credit Counselling Service of Alberta, stressed that tuition fees are only one component of the financial equation.

"I would agree that the cost of education is much higher than those of us that went 15 or 20 years ago by far; however, it's only one factor," Watson said, adding that most individuals who come in with debt will have credit card and

payday loans in addition to any student loans.

The study found that young Canadians were the most vulnerable to accumulating debt, and in light of evidence supporting the growing prevalence of debt in Canada, Credit Canada and Capital One Canada teamed up to launch the companies' first national credit education blitz, Credit Education Week Canada, which ran 13–16 November. Watson encouraged individuals in financial crisis to seek out debt management advice.

"Because credit is so much easier to get nowadays, people don't see it as a big thing to have, and of course we're in an economy right now that's booming, interest rates are lower, and so we think it's okay we're only paying a minimal amount, and I think that's why people have become much more free and easy," she said.

But Watson warns that economic optimism can be crippling.

"Certainly the wants might outweigh the needs, so if you want a new car or you want new clothes, it's quite easy to get wrapped up in that and then all of a sudden find out that your credit card bill is \$5000."

"The stress and anxiety of trying to deal with this type of debt is huge, and another problem is we're sort of living in a society of, 'I want it now, I'm going to have it now,'" Campbell agreed.

Shazin Mohamed, Access Fund director for the Student Financial Aid Information Centre (SFAIC), said via email that the U of A centre has recognized the need for financial planning among students and has developed a money management workshop to cater to students who may need some guidance with their spending plan, which includes living and educational costs.

"This workshop will be offered to U of A students at no charge and will take approximately 30–40 minutes," Shazin said. "[But] at this time, the workshop is still in the pilot stages of development, and no exact date or location is available until further notice."

In the meantime, Campbell emphasized that students who do need to take out loans to finance their education need to make sure they understand the terms of their loans and that they do everything possible to reduce the amount they face upon graduation.

Getting a student loan "shouldn't be the end-all; they should still [...] try to really minimize how much they actually get in student loans," she said.

"Because let's face it, it's very difficult when you finish school and you're making \$30 000 a year to pay back a \$30 000 student loan."

### Inside

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### Mario (but not Sonic) ...

Super Mario returns in *Galaxy*, a throwback to the heyday of video games that's well worth its Wii price.

A&E REVIEW, PAGE 10



### ... at the Olympics

Only those who climb the podium will take home cash from the COC, and this makes Robin Collum sad.

SPORTS COMMENTARY, PAGE 13



## THE GATEWAY

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The Gateway is created using Macintosh computers, HP Scanjet flatbed scanners, and a Nikon Super Cool Scan optical film scanner. Adobe InDesign is used for layout. Adobe Illustrator is used for vector images, while Adobe Photoshop is used for raster images. Adobe Acrobat is used to create PDF files which are burned directly to plates to be mounted on the printing press. Text is set in a variety of sizes, styles, and weights of FENICE, Joanna, Kepler and Whitney. The Manitoban is the Gateway's sister paper, and we love her dearly, though "not in that way." The Gateway's games of choice are World of Warcraft 2.3 and Achtung, die Kurve.

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## COUNCIL FORUM

By Ryan Heise

*Students' Council meets every second Tuesday in the Council Chambers in University Hall at 6pm. Council meetings are open to all students. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 4 December.*

## THE BIG KIDS CAME TO PLAY

Council opened with a presentation from University brass on student fees, with specific attention paid to next year's increases. In attendance from the University was Provost and Vice-President (Academic) Carl Amrhein, VP (Facilities &amp; Operations) Don Hickey, VP (Finance &amp; Administration) Phyllis Clark, interim registrar Jerry Kendal, executive director of Ancillary Services Doug Dawson, and committee initiatives manager Von Whiting. The presentation, which was given by Amrhein, began by looking at the increase in tuition fees for the next academic year.

Amrhein explained that the province has linked tuition increases to Alberta's consumer price index (CPI), which is 4.6 per cent, and that the University has made the suggestion to increase tuition by this effective 1 September, 2008.

The presentation then moved to talking about residences and deferred maintenance. Amrhein said that residence fees would be increasing by 8.75 per cent, down from a ten per cent increase last year. He explained that this increase was a combination of CPI and an another 4.15 per cent to cover maintenance costs. He added that the University continues to fall behind in deferred maintenance costs and that these increases are necessary to

“The one thing VPSL does aside from WoW and make paperclip animals.

CHRIS LE  
VP (Student Life)

—On organizing the team-based winter festival Anti-Freeze

attempt to keep up.

Before taking questions, Amrhein ran through some of the pressures—as well as some of the promising projects—the University is currently dealing with. Recruitment, information technology deficits, deferred maintenance costs, a lack of base grants, and political uncertainty were included in the former, while Cameron Library renovations, new wireless internet service, the wealth of new buildings being constructed, and a proposed writing centre were part of the latter.

During questions, many councillors raised concerns about housing and deferred maintenance. Hickey explained that more residence space is an important initiative, and the University hopes to have as many as 370 more beds by September 2009, some of which would be at South Campus. He added that deferred maintenance is an ongoing issue and that more money is needed, but that the money they are spending is being spent well.

Following the presentation, Council went *in camera* for about 15 minutes to go over the SU's 2007 audited financial statements.

## OPTING IN TO OPT-OUT EASIER

Once Council went *ex camera*, Business councillor Scott Nicol motioned that Bill 6 should undergo a first reading. The bill proposed an SU-run central location that would allow students to easily opt out of certain dedicated fee units. Though no specifics of how such a

system would work were provided, Nicol suggested that an online form would be the easiest and most economical. He also explained that this system doesn't affect the operation of DFUs in any way, but instead simply allows students to do something that they have a right to do in a more efficient manner. He also noted that there are many barriers for students to opt out of DFUs, including intimidation from physically having to opt out at some organizations' offices.

However, SU President Michael Janz was concerned that a centralized location would be difficult to set up and manage, as well as being unfair to DFUs such as APIRG who weren't consulted prior to the bill being introduced. He urged Council to vote to table the bill until the next meeting.

VP (External) Dollansky agreed with the bill, citing that it was simply a good first step and that its wording would still allow them to consider the timeline, cost, and implementation in the future.

The debate went on for quite some time, with many councillors siding with Janz about not consulting the DFUs. But others countered that it's the sole role of the SU to collect these fees, and that it should be in their interest to help students get them back if they so desire.

A motion to table the bill until the 4 December meeting failed by a narrow margin, by which time Council needed to vacate University Hall. Because no decision had been made, Council took a 15-minute recess and reconvened in SUB 3-06. At this time, Council dis-

cussed what actions they could take in regards to dealing with the bill. After a bit of deliberation on the matter, the vote was called and the first reading of Bill 6 passed by a vote of 23-15.

## QUESTION PERIOD

In an apparent planted question—which the President later confessed to—Janz was asked what he was working on so diligently that he couldn't pay attention during the meeting. He explained that he's signing letters of reference for attendees of the Student Group Summit that the SU is hosting this weekend.

Le was asked about the location of VP (Academic) Bobby Samuel. Samuel was supposed to be flying to Toronto to attend a conference on academic materials. However, no one had heard from him in some time. In a run-in with the President Wednesday morning, the Gateway was informed that Samuel had arrived safely in Toronto.

VP (Operations &amp; Finance) Eamon Gamble was asked about Dewey's financial status. He said that the results had been lower than expected, but it's looking like the bar lost approximately \$4000 during the month of October. He concluded that they need to look into controlling costs better.

## ATTENDANCE

The following councillors were absent for the 6 November meeting: Janz (President), Dollansky (VP External), Stedman (Law), Farhat (Science).

## STREETERS

Compiled and photographed by  
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Civil Engineering IVSara Syed  
Science IKim Staufferd  
Arts IV

Not really; it's a good service. It's ten bucks; ten bucks is ten bucks.

Ten bucks compared to what we're paying for fees isn't a big deal.

Depends on the service.

I don't have an answer. I didn't know these services were available or where to ask [about them].

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# Alberta Liberal MLA criticizes state of infrastructure, housing

JONATHAN TAVES  
News Staff

Calgary MLA Dave Taylor hosted a policy-formulating forum at the University of Alberta last week, addressing how affordable housing and infrastructure issues will affect the future of the province.

Taylor, Deputy Leader of the Alberta Liberals and the official Provincial Housing and Municipal Affairs critic, said he's concerned about the current state of Alberta's infrastructure.

"This is the richest province in one of the richest countries in the world, and yet we have the public sector infrastructure of a have-not province and, in some cases, pretty darn close to a third-world country," Taylor said.

Taylor estimated that the province faces an infrastructure deficit of \$12 billion, which is the total amount needed to improve existing structures and build much-needed new ones.

"That deferred maintenance has to take precedence," he said. "Even though it's not nearly as obvious or as sexy as building a brand-new freeway, there is a human health and safety issue. We don't want our overpasses falling down as we're driving over or under them."

Taylor also advocated for the re-evaluation of the government's priorities to solve Alberta's affordable housing crisis.

"[We need] a declaration that we will solve the affordable housing crisis within a set period of time," he said. "This is not rocket science; this is building homes for people."

Taylor outlined the Liberals' proposed program, which would spend up to \$200 million per year for five years. He believes the problem would be solved because the government wouldn't be the only group building affordable housing.

**"This is the richest province in one of the richest countries in the world, and yet we have the public sector infrastructure of a have-not province and, in some cases, pretty darn close to a third-world country."**

DAVE TAYLOR  
DEPUTY LEADER  
ALBERTA LIBERAL PARTY

He explained that through providing incentives for private developers and by amending legislation that inhibits zoning of affordable housing within other developments, more reasonably priced homes would be created.

The Conservative Party didn't respond to an invitation to discuss this Liberal proposal. However, the Conservative government's Affordable Housing Task Force report echoes Taylor's suggestions, calling for revision of the Municipal Government Act to "support more

flexible zoning, density bonuses, and other incentives."

To fund these and other projects long-term, Taylor proposed the province set aside 30 per cent of its non-renewable resource revenue, which he calls "temporary blessings."

The 30-per-cent portion would then be divided into four different accounts, with 35 per cent of that initial 30 per cent portion being invested in the Alberta Heritage Trust Fund. Taylor said that in 18 years, it would be generating more income from interest than the Province makes from oil and gas today.

"It's sustainable and predictable income because it's conservatively invested," he said.

A further 35 per cent would be a postsecondary education endowment. "This is designed to create excellence in postsecondary education, in research, and innovation," Taylor said.

Five per cent would be for an arts and culture and social sciences endowment fund, to be topped off between \$500 million and \$1 billion, with the final 25 per cent being spent as a capital account.

"This is how we [would] fund renewal of Alberta's infrastructure," he explained.

Taylor affirmed that the province can't always be dependent on non-renewable resource revenue for its financial prosperity.

"The future of Alberta isn't oil; the future of Alberta is knowledge," he told students. "You need to wrap your head around the notion that you already have a stake in this society."



LAUREN STIEGLITZ

WHAT TIME IS IT, MRS WEIR? MacEwan Provost Janet Paterson-Weir explains her college's degree-granting status.

## University more noteworthy—Amrhein

COLLEGES ♦ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Internationally, however, Amrhein believes that the name brand of a university may change how a degree is seen.

"Within Alberta, I don't think there is any particular reason why one [degree] should be preferred over another because the Quality Council has weighed in on the issue," Amrhein said.

"However, when you go to China, Japan, Germany, they know who the U of A is because they have experience with us. They probably don't know who Grant MacEwan College is," he said. "So if you present two degrees to someone in Munich, they

know U of A, [and] they probably don't know Grant MacEwan. All else equal, they'll probably pick U of A."

Jinting Zhao, a fourth-year political science student at the U of A, feels that distinction is valid. She thinks that universities can teach a higher caliber of education than colleges are able to.

"It's about access to a network of the best minds and the best resources available in any particular field of study," Zhao said. "These resources are more likely to pool at the University level rather than the college level."

Currently, several thousand potential undergraduate students are turned

away annually by the U of A and U of C. However, Amrhein is also concerned about those high-school graduates who don't move on to any postsecondary education.

He said that when the Faculty of Engineering is known to be admitting people whose averages are in the 80s, "a whole bunch of students with averages in the middle-70s who could succeed never bother to apply."

"There's the students who are turned down, that's several thousand students a year, I guess. [But] I'm as worried, or perhaps more worried, about the discouraged students who never even apply because they think it's hopeless."

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# Mice lead to heart discoveries

CAROLINE LEE  
News Staff

Staying young at heart may be possible with the discovery of a way to diminish the effects of the heart's aging process, according to a study published in the 6 November issue of *Circulation*.

According to Dr Jason Dyck, the study's supervisor and a professor in pediatrics and pharmacology at the University of Alberta, while lipid accumulation appears to be largely responsible for decreases in cardiac functioning, the effects of aging can be diminished or virtually eliminated in the heart with a decrease in fat uptake.

"What we found was that young and aged mice performed comparably on running tests. In fact, the hearts of aged knockout mice were indistinguishable from young hearts," he explained.

With typical aging, the heart is unable to function as efficiently due to a decrease in both mitochondrial functioning and fatty acid metabolism. This results in a lower availability of energy, in the form of adenosine triphosphate (ATP), to contract continuously. In an attempt to compensate for the energy deficiency, Dyck believes the heart increases lipid uptake through a transporter protein called CD36, despite the fact that the organ is unable to use this source of energy effectively.

"The fact that you're bringing in more fat into the cell, and then you can't use it, leads to a decrease in heart function," Dyck explained.

Dr Debby Koonen, the lead researcher and a postdoctoral fellow in pediatrics at the U of A, added that CD36, which is responsible for 50-60 per cent of lipid uptake in the heart, increased five-fold in aged mice. The amplified level of the transporter protein appears to be linked to a decrease in heart performance. However, by knocking out CD36 completely, she found that aged mice were able to maintain their treadmill time, performing comparably to young mice.

"CD36 knockout mice, despite the fact that [...] we had a reduction of 50 per cent in fatty acid uptake, had better function than the [normal mice]. They were almost identical to the young ones," she said.

By inhibiting production of CD36, the genetically modified mice were forced to use glucose as their main



MIKE OTTO

**STUART LITTLE A BIG HELP** Rodent research could lead to prevention of aging hearts.

energy source, and thus were capable of producing sufficient energy to maintain normal levels of cardiac function.

"With a seven-fold increase in glucose oxidation, [the knockout mice] were able to sustain their ATP production and, therefore, be almost young at heart," Koonen expanded.

The results of the study appear to be promising with its applicability to humans. Dyck explained that his research team was able to confirm with a small sample size that CD36 levels increased in the human heart with age. However, while a drug targeting CD36 protein does exist, it's toxic to the human body.

"You can either live with having CD36, or you can die from your drug," Koonen said. "So it's going to be a long time before [a drug targeting CD36] can come out unless there is a lab somewhere that actually

is looking into this and has experiments already running."

However, because CD36 was knocked out in the whole body, Koonen was unable to completely eliminate other factors that could be responsible for the increases in heart function in the knockout mice. One such example is the lower body weight overall exhibited in genetically modified mice compared to the normal, aged mice. To eliminate this limitation, her research team is working on making a heart-specific CD36 knockout.

"It's going to be really wicked because we can turn on CD36 and turn it off whenever we want with the drug. We can let these mice age and see what actually happens to the heart. Then, we can say, 'Okay, this is what's happening in the heart, and it has nothing to do with any of these other little things.'"

## Squirrels' personalities surprise researchers

JONATHAN TAVES  
News Staff

A 20-year study on how squirrels adapt to climate change has also discovered that the animals have distinct personalities.

Dr Stan Boutin, a University of Alberta ecologist, founded the project in 1984 and started data collection during 1989 on a few square kilometres of the south western Yukon Territory.

"People have wondered whether in fact there are personalities in animals," Boutin said. "It's been well shown in a number of species, and now we've documented it in squirrels as well."

Boutin said he chose to study squirrels because they're easier to observe compared to other animals. He explained that he originally set out to determine factors that affect distribution of animal populations and credited one of the participating graduate students with the personality portion of the project.

"I build the system and supply the

basics, and then these creative students come along and they really think up the neat ideas; this personality one was an example of that," Boutin said.

While they're being observed, the critters are fitted with different-coloured ear tags and radio transmitters to follow their movements.

"We track them right from birth to death," Boutin explained. "We know where they live, who their parents are, what resources they had, how many babies they produced. So we get all the same sort of information demographers get studying humans."

Boutin said that squirrel behaviour ranges from highly aggressive and exploratory to docile and inactive.

"There are some that are pretty neurotic," he said. "We looked at whether having a personality of a certain type makes [the squirrels] more or less successful in terms of survival or raising young, and it in fact does."

Because the researchers follow their subjects so closely, on occasion they'll even see the death of a squirrel.

"The little guys coming out of the

nest and looking around for the first time get picked off much more frequently. We sometimes do see the goshawk swoop down and take the guy away."

The research team has also observed the squirrels' adaptation to cope with their changing environment.

"The Yukon is a major place for climate change, and we've been tracking how the squirrels have been responding to it," Boutin explained, adding that the animals have advanced the timing of their reproduction in response to their warming environment.

Though more than 20 years of research has explained a significant amount about squirrel adaptation and personality, Boutin said he's still sometimes taken aback with their behaviour.

"There are things we have been able to understand extremely well. So we have confidence we have accomplished something. The other part is that they are always continually surprising us," he said. "They've produced some really striking results. It's been quite neat."



## Save the planet, screw the whales

IT'S BEEN ALMOST A WEEK SINCE A JAPANESE whaling fleet left the port of Shimonoseki in southern Japan on what the Japanese Fisheries Agency hails as the largest-ever scientific whale hunt—but the wave of criticism its departure has generated continues to grow.

The crew members of the Antarctic whale hunt, which is expected to last through April, have stated that they hope to kill as many as 50 humpback and 50 fin whales, plus 935 minke whales. Numerous environmental groups have chastised the project, and its motives are also being scrutinized by members of several governmental bodies from Australia, New Zealand, the US, and the European Union.

But while jumping on the anti-Japanese bandwagon is all the rage lately, there's little consensus as to what the problem with the whale-hunt really is.

Technically speaking, Japan is within its legal rights: under the International Whaling Convention moratorium on commercial whaling that took effect in 1986, scientific whale hunts are permissible for research purposes.

Some critics are claiming that Japan uses science as a cover for commercial whaling, but so far, no concrete proof has been produced showing that whales killed on “scientific hunts” end up on dinner tables.

Even though this is believed to be the first time that hunting of humpback whales has occurred since they were put under international protection in 1963, there's no proof that this count will endanger the species that's since been moved into protective status.

Whether or not it's necessary to kill whales in order to conduct research on their reproductive and feeding patterns, as Japan claims, is debatable. But without evidence that the number of whales killed on this hunt will endanger their overall populations, a preference for using an alternative for whale studies that don't involve killing the sea mammals isn't a legitimate reason to peg Japan as the big, bad whale killer of the east.

There are no legal or sustainable grounds for opposing the whale hunt, and the conceivable reason that so many people are still opposed to the hunt lies in a desire to feed into the romanticized cause to “save the whales.”

People like to personify whales, thinking of them as gentle giants of the deep. And it's this mentality that leads to them unjustifiably confusing the act of killing whales with barbarism.

There's nothing inhumane about killing whales, if not for the simple fact that the sea creatures aren't human. And the current high-seas showdown the Japanese whaling-hunt now faces with environmental groups only exemplifies the illogical reasoning of most anti-whaling yuppies.

Expedition protester David Walsh has claimed that “it's a large ocean, but we're going to track them down,” apparently without regard to the amount of resources the pointless protesting is wasting. It would be interesting to find out, for example, how much oil is currently being used to propel Greenpeace's ship, the *Esperanza*, around in circles to track the Japanese fleet.

Japan shouldn't be given free reign to suck in all the sea life it wants, but if sustainable whaling is possible, then there's no reason to disallow hunting them for scientific or even commercial purposes. After all, an animal is an animal, and let's not forget the plethora of lab rats that are given various diseases for our benefit.

And while there may be no direct correlation between researching dead whales and benefiting humans, we could still eat them. I've had whale; it's kind of chewy, and not all that bad.

A lot of people just need a cause to cling to, and this recent anti-whale-hunt fad is no different. Whales aren't even cute. The idea of trying to “save” something is just a ploy to soothe the modern radical environmental activist's guilty conscience of all the past unsustainable practices humans have engage in—lest we forget the bison.

The whole whale hunting debate has become sidetracked by such types, who just need to fight for something. But unless the International Whaling Convention decides otherwise, Japan should sail ahead with their hunt—and in the meantime, I'll save the whale for dessert.

NATALIE CLIMENHAGA  
Senior News Editor



MIKE KENDRICK AND CONAL PIERCE

## LETTERS

### Canada should compete for beard glory

I was happy to read about beards and moustaches at the University (re: “Drop those blades—you'll look better without a shave,” 20 November). I'm hoping the trend will continue beyond November.

Do you realize that Canada has never competed at the World Beard and Moustache Championships? Even Albania has been there. Some people are wondering if Canada is even a real country.

Someone needs to do something about this, and I nominate [Conal Pierce]. The next championships will take place in Anchorage, Alaska in May 2009, so there's plenty of time for Team Canada to grow those beards into championship form.

Seriously, I will help you with this project. I'm involved in planning for Anchorage, and we want our neighbors (or neighbours) to come.

PHIL OLSEN  
Captain, Beard Team USA  
Via Email

### The handlebar 'stache seen around the world

Paul Blinov: I agree, the handlebar brush is the way to go. Mine is ten feet long. It was in the Guinness Book of World Records in 1995—I think it was eight feet long then.

PAUL MILLER  
“Mr Moustache”  
Via Email

### CF no longer the CAF

(Re: “More spending needed to bulk

up CAF,” 20 November) I feel that I need to point out that the CAF no longer exists—as the title implies.

It did once refer to two organizations—the Canadian Air Force, as it was known before gaining its “Royal” title in 1924, and the Canadian Armed Forces. The latter is now known however as simply the Canadian Forces, with the appropriate acronym being CF.

TAMARA SUTHERLAND  
Arts III

### Commies won't change

In your response to the article “China has to shape up before they can host the Olympic Games,” (20 November) I'm afraid that it's just too late. As long as the Communist Party is in control, the only path that they are able to see is to continue and escalate their bullying, both internally and internationally. The only hope for an honourable outcome is the elimination of the Chinese Communist Party.

KATHLEEN GILLIS  
Via Email

### Why didn't we write a two-page feature on this?

If anyone hasn't gone for a tour of the new Espresso Book Machine yet, they should definitely check it out. I took a look last Friday and was really impressed. The Bookstore's director [Todd] Anderson was nice enough to give me a tour and let me watch the printing in action, and he also patiently answered questions and gave me some background on how the University purchased it.

The Espresso is already making a name for itself by letting local artists publish their own work for

cheap. Combined with things like Project Gutenberg, the Open Library Project, and the University's ability to get printing rights through the Open Content Alliance, the Espresso becomes a very valuable tool. If you can print almost any book in just a few minutes at a cost of five cents per page, what's not to like? Instead of paying \$30 for a philosophy text, or even \$16 when buying it online, you can now pay \$4. Better yet, you can have the book in your hands in time to finish that last-minute homework project.

Todd Anderson and everyone else involved in the purchasing of the Espresso Machine deserve both praise and thanks for helping to keep the U of A on the cutting edge. The Espresso Machine combined with digital book distribution makes it feel like the future has finally arrived.

DAVE SCHAEFER  
Comp Sci IV

### Swimming after the Bear Scat boat

I would like to add my voice to the majority of U of A students who expect and demand that our elected Students' Union respect the mandate given them by voters on the promise of continued support for Bear Scat. Bear Scat is an essential service to the many thousands of students attending this school due to the incredible increase in efficiency it allows when registering for courses.

It may be that the SU is being pressured to drop Bear Scat support thanks to the inordinate amount of money spent by the University to develop Bear Tracks. Quite frankly, this is irrelevant, as the student body didn't make that decision. Bear Scat was created for the students by the

students (one Steve Kirkham, long may his name be praised).

By refusing to support a service so strongly endorsed by the vast majority of U of A students, you as the Students' Union executive are flagrantly disregarding the best interests of the students of the U of A, whom it is your job to serve.

I attended the U of A for four years and may be returning next year to study medicine. During those years, I experienced the phone registration system, the sudden switch to Bear Tracks, and the immense relief that was provided by Bear Scat. I can say without question that Bear Scat contributed to my academic success at the U of A, particularly being extremely busy as a student-athlete and chorister. I attribute Bear Scat with enabling me to balance my academic demands and achieve higher grades.

I would ask that each of you return the good faith displayed by Mr Kirkham in his efforts to serve the U of A student body and offer the SU's support to the continued functioning of Bear Scat.

STEWART MAWDSLEY  
U of A Alumnus

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The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libellous or otherwise hateful in nature. The Gateway also reserves the right to publish letters online.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the author's name, program, year of study and student identification number to be considered for publication.



# The drink-makers' guide to the galaxy of inebriation

The variety of alcohol out there may be staggering, but these handy suggestions will help you take the edge off with an ethanol knife



OPINION  
STAFF

Group  
Commentary

Today is Thursday—also known as mini-Friday—which means there's a good chance that you might delight in a pre-weekend liver workout. But before you head to the liquor store, we've got some advice on how best to strip your gut lining.

**Sarah Stead**

One argument I often hear from non-drinkers is that they choose not to consume alcohol because "it's bad for you." To this I say, "Not if you drink vodka." Here's a fun fact: vodka is made from potatoes, and potatoes are a vegetable. Canada's Food Guide says that growing young adults (that's you!) need between 10–12 servings of fruits and vegetables every day—and this is where vodka comes in.

Let's call one shot of vodka a serving of vegetables. The "excessive" drinking habit your friends and family tell you that you have is now your ticket to health. It's also efficient: at 40 per cent by volume, even the seasoned drinker doesn't need to down much to feel its effects. The average beer is somewhere around five or six per cent, and the volume of beer one has to consume to achieve drunkenness is staggering by comparison.

If your mission is intoxication, or just a desire to be a better dancer, vodka is obviously the superior choice. Vodka is also extremely versatile in the number of mixed drinks you can make with it—vodka slimes, vodka sours, screwdrivers, and cosmopolitans, to name just a few.

But why weigh down a tasty liquor with the empty calories that sodas and colas provide? If vodka deserves to be mixed with anything, it may as well be fruit juice, like cranberry or orange. Just think of it as one more serving of fruit that Canada's Food Guide will congratulate you for choosing. So next time you raise a shot glass full of the colourless alcoholic nectar of the Gods to your mouth, make a toast to your health.

**Ramin Ostad**

Have you ever had an iced cappuccino? Have you ever put vodka in that iced cappuccino, or thought about doing it? I have, and sadly, it doesn't taste very good—which is strange to me, since my favorite drink, black Russian, tastes so much like the aforementioned cold beverage.

What is a black Russian, you say? Well, it's part vodka, part Kahlua. Pretty simple, right? I usually throw Coke into the mix, since most bars only do a half-shot of each—though, even with a double, Coke does make it a bit sweeter.

Now, some have called me effeminate for having this as my drink of choice—among other reasons—but don't confuse this delectable booze

with its pussified cousin—or really girly sister, if you prefer—the white Russian, which adds disgusting, indigestible milk to the vodka/Kahlua combo.

Black Russians are a man's drink, and are for those with refined taste.

**Maria Kotovych**

When confronted with the decision of what to have, I usually apply the umbrella test: if the drink comes garnished with a colourful little paper umbrella, that's the beverage for me.

Margaritas, bellinis, daquiries—those "girly drinks" are the ones that I like most. Coming in a wide variety of fruity flavours, these drinks soften the sting of the liquor that's inside. And then there's the umbrella. It hangs off the edge of the unusually shaped glass, adding to the visual spectacle. I admire the thing in front of me knowing that soon I'll be able to consume its sweet goodness.

What other beverage is as colourful and fun as a girly drink? It makes for a great conversation piece as well—when a server at a restaurant places a delectable blended concoction in front of me, everyone starts talking about it with an energy and vigour that the sight of a plain old pint could never arouse.

Yes, I know men who enjoy these drinks as well, and I see nothing wrong with a guy who, like me, prefers to drink something pink and frothy instead of a beer. Unfortunately, girly drinks and those who enjoy them take a lot of flak from the big, tough drinkers of beer or hard liquor. But I don't care,

because only when someone invents a way to serve scotch with an umbrella (and also to make it stop tasting like gasoline) will I consider switching.

**Lauren Lamont**

Think wine is too good for you? Think again.

One of the many criteria that attests to wine's unabashed greatness is its versatility. Wine doesn't discriminate against certain socio-economic classes, which is made evident through its wide array of packaging. The swanky high-roller can most typically be found sipping a finely bottled Bordeaux, while the lowly bus-stop resident is perfectly content to suckle on the spout of a flaccid-bagged, stale red.

Recent studies have also shown that red wine reduces HDL (ie bad) cholesterol and also functions as a blood thinner—which is good news to those doughnut-embracing members of our population. However, recent studies also show that thin blood may cause one to bleed in excess when you collapse mid-stumble back home after a few too many wobbly-pops.

Wine also offers the consumer a wide variety of colours and flavours from which to choose, and each seems to have its own ideal culinary companion. Red wine is most frequently paired with a thick slab of beef, while white wine compliments the more delicate proteins. Nothing flatters a fine spread of fish more than a fair Pinot Grigio.

The superior ranking of *el vino* can also be attributed to the wide variety of locales in which this tasty beverage can

be consumed. Wine can be quaffed in a pub, club, or even a religious institution. So next time you're out to get smashed, try loading up on the blood of Christ.


**David Johnston**

My drink of choice is sobriety. If I'm not mistaken, we're here at the U of A to further our mental faculties and stimulate our creative minds. Pickling our brains in vodka, beer, or whatever it is the kids are drinking these days doesn't seem like the best way to achieve that goal.

Whenever I explain to someone that I don't drink, I always get funny looks—or, more often, excited looks that quickly fade when I tell them that I won't be the designated driver. It's not like I never drink—in my wild days, I was known to slam back a veritable plethora of beers (two) and boy, those were some wild nights—but I really don't think much of the taste, and mood-stimulators like alcohol do very little for me socially, spiritually, or financially. I prefer to save up my money for a drink I can be conscious enough to enjoy, like a root-beer float or a nice cool glass of water—refreshing and economical.

So the next time some lecherous greaseball or tempting succubus offers you an addicting alcoholic beverage, take a page out of my book. Hold your ground, look them straight in the eye, and firmly chirp, "No thanks, I'd rather go to heaven." It'll do wonders for your social life, I guarantee it.

Besides, weed is so much better.



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PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: DAVID RIDLEY

**POURING OUR CARTS OUT** If the activists had their way, shopping malls across North America would look like this.

# Not buying not the solution

The focus of Buy Nothing Day should be teaching consumers how to make wiser purchasing choices—not simply abstaining from shopping for 24 hours



JONN KMECH

Thanksgiving weekend begins in the United States tomorrow, which traditionally inaugurates the Christmas shopping season in North America. To the more socially conscious, this day is known more colloquially as "Black Friday," where millions of wild-eyed consumers give thanks for the goodwill amongst humanity by trampling others to death in a desperate struggle to get big savings on the latest toys and consumer electronics.

Following the customs of the Pilgrims, who kicked off the holiday season by persecuting nonbelievers, North Americans celebrate their fortunes on one of the busiest shopping days of the year by persecuting the guy with the last remaining Furby. Every Christmas, there's that one product that sends shoppers into a maniacal, irrational frenzy wherein they're compelled to obtain it, even if it means increasing the size of their crow's feet by staying on eBay until 5am to bid \$1200 for the latest stuffed animal that mutters five phrases and enjoys being tickled.

This Christmas is no exception, for there's a new product with such a powerful ability to warm the heart that I myself must brave the stampeding marauders to acquire it. Armed only with an indomitable will and a can of

mace, I need this item on Friday, as well as eight more for my friends and relatives, before they inevitably sell out.

I speak, of course, of Volume Two of the *Faux Fire* DVD (as seen on by Shaw TV), just released this month.

However, there are some individuals out there who oppose this shopping frenzy. In fact, these rebels want me to abstain from purchasing anything Friday, and instead believe that we should observe something called Buy Nothing Day (BND).

**BND, then, is ultimately as shallow and worthless as the Faux Fire. It may look classy and make you feel warm inside, but it's merely a superficial solution to the actual problem.**

2007 marks the 15th-annual BND, in which social activists take to the streets, riding on their moral high horses to protest Black Friday and rampant consumerism while carrying banners made with materials they produced themselves and wearing clothing they stitched completely by hand after they both grew and gathered the hemp in their basements.

The day is promoted by Adbusters magazine as a time to make a "lifestyle commitment to consuming less and producing less waste," the only

exceptions being the purchase of Adbusters magazine or a pair of \$99 Black Spot sneakers.

This whole concept infuriates me. Who are they to stand between me and my dream of viewing burning logs in the comfort and safety of my own home? Sure, I own a copy of Volume One, but that's useless and old. This one has *eight new songs*.

Then it dawned on me: the sole problem with BND is myself. As consumers, we've gotten used to getting the latest things, no matter how unnecessary. But people are always going to buy—it's how our society is set up. Instead, we need to change attitudes about what we buy and whether these products have worth so that they don't just become waste filling our closets and landfills. In that respect, BND sends the wrong message and doesn't address the real issue. The problem is overconsumption of stuff we don't need, not buying in general.

BND, then, is ultimately as shallow and worthless as the *Faux Fire*. It may look classy and make you feel warm inside, but it's merely a superficial solution to the actual problem.

This Friday, people should observe Buy Something Day (trademark pending). Such an event could send the message that though buying is okay, we should curb our spending to something useful, special, or necessary. This could resonate more effectively with consumers and actually have an impact on the egregious amounts of bullshit that we buy.

Now if you'll excuse me, I'm going to go roast chestnuts over an open television screen.



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# Pocket Protectors

PART 3

**You probably thought you'd take all the money you're saving by eating cheap and dating smart and blow it on booze this weekend, but you're wrong. CONAL PIERSE and PAUL OWEN are back one more time to remind you that no matter what you do in life, especially drinking, there's always a way to do it that costs less money.**

Photos by Tara Stieglitz and Pete Yee



If you're reading this, then it's quite likely that you have drinking problem—the problem being that, as exams approach and stress rises, you simply can't afford to drink away your woes anymore due to a shrinking bank account and the looming threat of the holiday season. It's an unfortunate situation—after all, having to make a choice between a twelve-pack and making rent is about as heinous a dilemma as deciding whether you're going to feed a baby to a tiger or an alligator—but luckily, with a little sacrifice and gastrointestinal fortitude, you'll find that you're able to go out and enjoy yourself while still being able to afford that spa package for mom.

Now, the obvious way to save money is to simply not buy liquor. This isn't to say that you become a tea-totterer, but rather, that you become a bit of a bastard. How you go about this will depend on the situation you're in—and will almost inevitably mean finagling it from your pals—so you'd best have a plan for any occasion.

When a bunch of your friends gather at a pub for happy hour pitchers, show up after the first round is bought. They'll happily pour you a glass, and hopefully they'll be onto their second or third. A good indicator for when to show up is when you start getting angry phone calls that consist of a lot of different people yelling and threatening to have you fired. If they're drunk enough and you don't down a whole pitcher on your own, you'll easily be able to slip by without them noticing that you haven't purchased a round.

The opposite of this ploy is also a good technique to getting cheaper drinks. Be the one buying during happy hour—or, even better, 25-cent-highball hour. Buy for everyone. Take advantage of the cheap prices to build up credit that you will call upon later in the evening when everyone's hammered and prices skyrocket. And be sure to pay extra attention to your friend who enjoys buying rounds of tequila when they're sloshed. Get them loaded early, and you'll be rewarded with Irish Car Bombs and Muff Dives for the rest of the night.

If you're willing to clean up the mess and deal with no longer having any clean cups the next morning, hosting the pre-drinking party is a good way to get free booze as well. Not only do you gain ownership of any and all forgotten liquor, but during the night, you can discretely mix yourself drinks using other people's happy sauce. You can even use another person's mix to spread the sharing around and reduce the cost

to yourself even more. If you get caught, you can choose to either get offended and say that you were simply being a good host and fixing them a drink, or tell them “Fuck you, it's my goddamn house.”

When it comes to actually purchasing liquor, there's not a heck of a lot you can do at the store to get your booze cheaper. If you're a nice, polite individual who doesn't try cracking lame jokes, then you might get the occasional price drop. However, if you're loud and boisterous or ask for a discount, all you'll get is an eye roll. The person working the till is not your buddy, bra, bro, homey, or friend; they're someone working a Friday night shift who just wants to get through it and go home.

If you're buying hard liquor, you can go around and take a free sample off another bottle and attach it to yours without any worry of being called on it. These bottles are put there by liquor reps and aren't technically store property, so the employees generally don't give a shit about them.

Deciding between cheap beer and hard liquor isn't so much a matter of price, but is based rather on how you want to feel the next day. Liquor will last you longer (in fact, sometimes a single bottle of Russian Prince can last over a year), but it will give you one hell of a hangover. This ain't your run-of-the-mill tiredness and headache; these hangovers are equivalent to being fucked by a large bear while being dragged behind a truck. Cheap beer is less likely to make you regret life the next morning if you over-drink; however, it will give you porcelain-shattering shits, and even with the most pillovesque of toilet papers, your O-ring's going to be sore by the end of the day.

There are plenty of choices for cheap beer, so it tends to come down to personal taste. Bow Valley used to be a solid choice, and out of all the cheap beer we've tried, it definitely has the best taste. However, it's not readily available, as Liquor Depot and its affiliates no longer carry it, and most smaller stores never bothered to.

Brewhouse is a decent beer (though has strong hints of “can”), and you can get a twelve-pack for just over \$13.

Lucky Lager is also quite good, but stay away from the Extra: even though it's extra-stronger, it also means extra-bad flavour and extra-bad hangover.

TNT is just shit. Even when it's cold, it still tastes like warm beer, and you shouldn't give it to a man dying of thirst.

If you want to go the route of the 40, Colt 45 is one of the better choices—plus it's endorsed by Lando Calrissian.

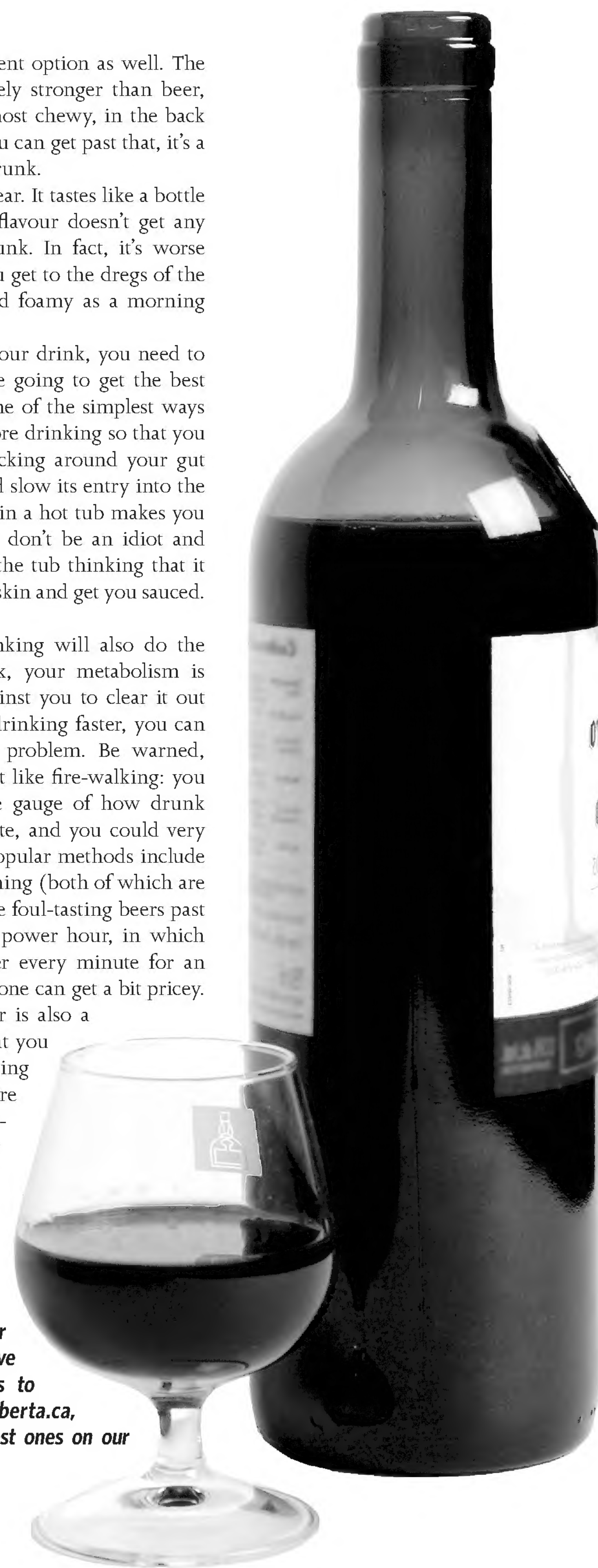
Olde English is a decent option as well. The taste of a 40 is definitely stronger than beer, and it feels thicker, almost chewy, in the back of your throat. But if you can get past that, it's a dirt-cheap way to get drunk.

Stay away from Big Bear. It tastes like a bottle depot smells, and the flavour doesn't get any better when you're drunk. In fact, it's worse because by the time you get to the dregs of the bottle, it's as warm and foamy as a morning piss.

Now that you have your drink, you need to think about how you're going to get the best bang for your buck. One of the simplest ways is simply not to eat before drinking so that you don't have any food kicking around your gut to sop up the booze and slow its entry into the bloodstream. Drinking in a hot tub makes you feel drunker; however, don't be an idiot and pour good booze into the tub thinking that it will soak through your skin and get you sauced. That's just stupid.

Likewise, power-drinking will also do the trick. While you drink, your metabolism is constantly working against you to clear it out of your system, so by drinking faster, you can somewhat bypass this problem. Be warned, though, that this is a lot like fire-walking: you won't have an accurate gauge of how drunk you are until it's too late, and you could very well get burnt. Some popular methods include beer-bonging, shotgunning (both of which are excellent ways to get the foul-tasting beers past your tongue), and the power hour, in which you take a shot of beer every minute for an hour—though that last one can get a bit pricey. Drinking in the shower is also a good way to ensure that you maximize your drinking time—plus, since you're already cleaning yourself, you can easily wash away the stink of shame.

**Have any tips of your own on how to save money? Email your tips to [managing@gateway.ualberta.ca](mailto:managing@gateway.ualberta.ca), and we'll publish the best ones on our website.**





## SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

### Zappa Plays Zappa

Friday, 23 November at 7pm  
Jubilee Auditorium

While Dweezil may seem like an odd name, compared to the other Zappa siblings Moon Unit, Ahmet Emuukha Rodan, and Diva Thin Muffin Pigeen, it's downright dull and unoriginal. The oldest Zappa son is a recording artist like his famous father Frank, and he's organized the Zappa Plays Zappa tour for the second consecutive year to give new generations a taste of his father's music live.

This series has been hailed as the greatest concert ever performed by a musician who's both had his own cooking show on the Food Network and voiced cartoon mallard Ajax Duckman on *Duckman*.

### The Disciples of the Cambodian Death Brigade

With Keep 6 and Guest  
Friday, 23 November at 8pm  
Starlite Room

Followers of noted death metal connoisseur Pol Pot, the Disciples will not rest until every rural agrarian attending this concert is brutalized by their powerful onslaught of speed-metal guitars and growled lyrics, leaving only bare, decapitated skulls that have been headbanged to death.

Influenced by Slayer as much as Khmer Rouge, the Disciples celebrate the collectivization of agriculture by figuratively massacring the audience, turning the Starlite Room into the Killing Fields—sans any real killing or the bones of the innocent, of course.

### A Northern Chorus

With Team Building  
Saturday, 24 November at 8pm  
Victory Lounge

In the past, The Northern Chorus has received criticism that they're repetitive, likely due to their chorus-chorus-chorus songwriting structure. The Hamilton group combines straight-ahead rock with a certain degree of spacey experimentalism, somewhat like local E-towners Fractal Pattern, but with vocals and a cello replacing the French horn.

### Chick Corea

Saturday, 24 November at 8pm  
Winspear Centre

Legendary jazz pianist Chick Corea tickles the ivories at the Winspear this Saturday along with some backup from his Freedom Band. Winner of 14 Grammys, including one in 2007 for Best Jazz Instrumental Album, Corea has had a profound effect on the world of jazz, especially Latin jazz and the more experimental jazz fusion. Sporting a 40-year career, Corea is one of the longest-running jazz acts still touring and is a must-see for any jazz fan.

### The Great Russian Swan Lake

Running 26-27 November at 8pm  
Jubilee Auditorium

Moscow Ballet is bringing one of the greatest ballets of all time to Edmonton with their performance of Swan Lake. The Tchaikovsky ballet tells the story of a Prince who falls in love with a hideous, half-mutated swan maiden. Stunningly beautiful with her elongated neck and webbed feet, the princess, though a swan by day, moonlights as a woman, going through a horrific transformation akin to Jeff Goldblum in *The Fly*.

In a tale both heart-rending and bittersweet, the prince vows to end the curse of the evil sorcerer so he can consummate his ardour with the humanoid, poultry-like freak of nature, despite her constant pleas of "kill me."

JOHN KMECH  
Saving Christmas for the second time



# Chimaira cherish unions and reunions

Guitarist Rob Arnold is learning to juggle touring life with a wife in Chimaira's *Resurrection*

## musicpreview

### Chimaira

With Kataklysm and Divine Heresy  
Friday, 24 November at 7pm  
Dinwoodie Lounge

PAUL BLINOV  
Arts & Entertainment Editor

One sound rarely associated with the headbanging genre of metal is the blissful chime of wedding bells—yet that's exactly what Chimaira guitarist Rob Arnold heard a few months ago when he married his longtime sweetheart. From an outsider viewpoint, the married life seems like the polar opposite of playing in a metal act—what, take the sex out of sex, drugs, and rock & roll?—but Arnold insists it's easier to juggle that you'd expect.

"I'm a faithful dude, and we'd been [dating] for years before I was touring," he explains over the phone. "She knows the game now, so as long as there's trust there, you've got it. She has a career of her own, but she will [come on tour for] a couple of days here and there, either regionally or if she can take a break."

Getting hitched does make touring seem less of a party and more of a stretch, however, especially with Chimaira's increasing popularity—they've managed to develop dedicated pockets of overseas fans. According to Arnold, all it took was a few trips to lay down the foundations of a fan base.

"It helps that we've been over there a quite a few times," he says of foreign fans. "You really can't catch on in Europe or Asia or Japan unless you go there. Obviously, people pick up the records, but it's being there and the word of mouth, and people telling their buddies about you, is what gets the word around."

Chimaira's been working on doing just that for about seven years. Now, with the release of their

latest album, *Resurrection*, the band's seeing a fresh generation of fans embracing their brand of metal—some who aren't familiar with the band's earlier work.

"I've been noticing younger crowds through all the shows we play, or maybe it's that I'm getting older," Arnold says. "These younger kids don't really know our prior catalogue, and are there to see us because of *Resurrection*. You can tell with what songs they're singing along to."

**"I'm a faithful dude, and we'd been [dating] for years before I was touring. She knows the game now, so as long as there's trust there, you've got it."**

ROB ARNOLD  
CHIMAIRA GUITARIST

*Resurrection* is aptly titled: it marks the return of original drummer Andols Herrick to the band's line-up. Herrick had dropped out of Chimaira a few years ago to sort his life out. In the years between, Chimaira went through a slew of other drummers, but nobody quite fit into the band's chaotic style like Herrick did.

For him, [leaving] was kind of an awakening for him; the ol' 'You don't what you got until it's gone,'" Arnold recalls. "He was kind of falling apart before he left the band just because of the perfectionist that he is. His mind was in other places with his girlfriend at the time, and it was affecting his playing."

"Bringing him back was great; the whole vibe of the band was united once again," he continues. "He was the missing piece for those couple of years; we went through some drummer changes. Now, his role in the band is basically to make sure he sticks around."

The album also marked a label departure for the band, who left Roadrunner Records before

its release. Not that this disheartened the band; they'd been trying to split with the record label for some time.

"For months, we'd been asking to let go," Arnold explains. "We still owed them a couple of records in our contract, but we were going with the angle, 'C'mon, if you love something, let it go.'"

"We knew that we had more potential on a label where we could be more [of a] focus," he continues. At Roadrunner, we were the bottom of the totem pole when you got bands like Nickelback selling tons of records, and we weren't a priority anymore."

"While we understood that, We didn't want that to be our destiny. So after a few months of pleading and pulling some favours and having some guys get in our corner at Roadrunner, they were able to talk to the higher-ups and get us out of our deal—just wiped the slate clean."

The band soon signed to Ferret Records, and, united by new label and classic lineup, Chimaira released *Resurrection*. In addition to bringing a younger crowd to their concerts, it's the balance between metal and melody that Arnold always wanted to make.

"From the beginning, we set out to be a heavy band that can make you bob your head and feel the groove," he says. "At the same time, we just like to have fun, and I think people see that, and see the realism of [us], and that's what really creates longevity in fans."

While Chimaira's managed to gather even more acclaim as time goes on, Arnold has to admit that touring isn't quite what it used to be. With a wife waiting at home, his priorities have shifted from touring to recording and writing music closer to home.

"In my earlier days, I definitely preferred being on the road more and just jamming and having a good time. But now that I'm getting a little older—I've got a wife and a house—I prefer the studio side of things," he admits. "I still love touring, but it doesn't have the same ease that it did back then."